

October 15, 2019

Kathy Boockvar
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Pennsylvania Department of State
302 North Office Building, 401 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Bensalem Township, Bucks County

Dear Madame Secretary:

We are writing to you to alert you to what we believe to be a clear violation of campaign finance laws which has recently occurred in Bensalem Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Your Complainants, Jesse R. Sloane and Edward J. Tokmajian, both serve on Bensalem Township Council, where we took office in January of 2018. We are the only Democrats on Bensalem's five-member Township Council. Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo is a Republican as well.

What has occurred within the Township is the diversion of public monies derived from taxpayer funds for partisan purposes tied to the upcoming elections. By way of background, for a number of years, Bensalem has maintained a "Homeowner's Assistance Grant" program, whereby homeowners in the Township receive a check in the mail from the Township on an annual basis, which is intended to be used to subsidize the cost of home maintenance or repairs. The program enjoys unanimous support among the Township Council, ourselves included.

In previous years, the standard protocol was to send the checks to homeowners along with a letter from the Mayor, which typically acknowledged all Council members, as a matter of decorum if nothing else. Indeed, in the letter sent to homeowners in October of 2018, both of us were specifically referenced and acknowledged, although neither of us had actually voted on the budget the year before (since we had not been seated yet).

This year the checks were accompanied by a misleading and purely partisan letter from the Mayor, subsidized and paid for exclusively through use of Township resources and funds. A copy of the same is enclosed. The letter, printed on official Township letterhead and paid for by taxpayers, opens by thanking *three* of the five Bensalem councilmen – only the Republicans - for

their part in securing money for Bensalem residents by tying the December 2018 Budget vote with the Homeowner's Assistance Grant.

As a preliminary matter, we, Councilmen Jesse Sloane and Ed Tokmajian, are on the record in our unwavering support of the Homeowner's Assistance Grant. Furthermore, we have never opposed or voted against the Homeowner's Assistance Grant. Rather, in 2017, prior to being elected, we advocated and pushed for an increase to the Homeowne'rs Assistance Grant.

The Mayor's partisan attempt to imply that we voted against the grant program when we voted against the budget is knowingly false and purposefully misleading. The omission of our names was an intentional political maneuver meant to mislead and deceive Bensalem residents a month before the 2019 Municipal Election, in which two of the three Republicans are seeking re-election. It was obvious that it was the Mayor's intention to use this letter to help them in this upcoming election, and hurt our efforts by omitting our names from the letter.

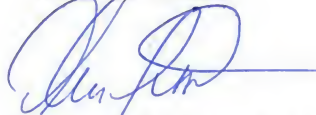
In actuality, we had voted against the Mayor's budget because it covered up a multi-million-dollar budget deficit that will reduce funding and resources for emergency services, leaving them underfunded and ill-equipped to properly serve our community, or result in a staggering tax increase for Bensalem residents. While these budgetary matters are beyond the purview of your office, we feel that some context is necessary to understand the content and intent of the Mayor's letter.

While the Mayor's letter might be perfectly acceptable (misleading though it may be) as a piece of campaign literature paid for by independent campaign funds, that is not what has transpired here. To the contrary, Township funds were used. The letter was sent on Township letterhead and transmitted to residents on the Township's own dime, to the tune of thousands of dollars. These funds were simply misappropriated for partisan purposes from the public coffer in the Mayor's hope of maintaining an increasingly embattled Republican majority on Township Council. As such, we believe that this particular offense lies particularly within the jurisdiction of your office, and we are therefore requesting your office to investigate this matter further and to take appropriate action should illegal conduct have occurred.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jesse R. Sloane".

Jesse R. Sloane

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Tokmajian".

Edward J. Tokmajian

DATE: 1993-09-06 14:25:00

1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to define the problem. This involves identifying the symptoms of the problem and determining the scope of the problem. Once the problem has been defined, the next step is to identify the causes of the problem. This involves identifying the factors that are contributing to the problem and determining the underlying causes. Once the causes have been identified, the next step is to develop a plan of action. This involves identifying the steps that need to be taken to solve the problem and determining the resources that will be needed to implement the plan. Finally, the last step in the process is to implement the plan and monitor the results. This involves putting the plan into action and tracking the progress of the solution. Once the problem has been solved, the final step is to evaluate the results and determine if the solution was effective. This involves comparing the results of the solution to the original problem and determining if the problem has been solved. If the problem has not been solved, the process may need to be repeated.

The following questions have been asked over
 the last 20 years in 20 different countries
 in which each of the respondents has been
 asked to answer the question: "How
 often do you use the word 'I'?"
 The results are as follows:

1. The first of these is the fact that the
2. government has been unable to secure the
3. necessary funds to carry out its policy.
4. This is due to the fact that the
5. government has been unable to secure the
6. necessary funds to carry out its policy.
7. This is due to the fact that the
8. government has been unable to secure the
9. necessary funds to carry out its policy.
10. This is due to the fact that the
11. government has been unable to secure the
12. necessary funds to carry out its policy.

1. The first step in the process of the investigation is the identification of the problem. This is done by the investigator who is responsible for the study. The next step is the formulation of a hypothesis, which is a statement that can be tested. The third step is the design of the study, which involves the selection of the subjects, the measurement of the variables, and the control of the extraneous variables. The fourth step is the collection of data, which is done by the investigator or by a research assistant. The fifth step is the analysis of the data, which is done by the investigator. The sixth step is the interpretation of the results, which is done by the investigator. The seventh step is the reporting of the results, which is done by the investigator. The eighth step is the evaluation of the study, which is done by the investigator. The ninth step is the conclusion, which is drawn by the investigator. The tenth step is the recommendation, which is made by the investigator.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the situation.

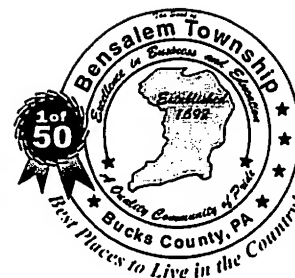
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and a number of individuals, including the following:

[illegible]

Township of Bensalem

Joseph DiGirolamo
Mayor



October 5, 2019

Dear Fellow Bensalem Homeowner:

On behalf of Councilmen Knowles, Kisselback and Pilieri, I am pleased to provide you with your 2019 Bensalem Township Homeowners Assistance Grant. I am equally pleased to inform you that thanks to the approval of my 2019 Budget by these three members of our Township Council, the Homeowners Assistance Grant Program is continuing this year in the amount of \$300. Your Grant check is enclosed, and it is our hope that this will help you to maintain or improve your home.

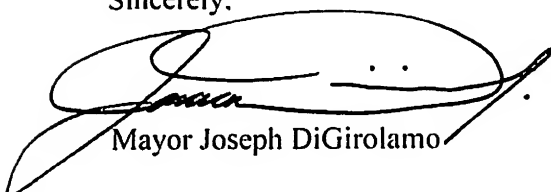
We are also continuing the additional \$150 Grant for Senior Citizens (65 and older) and Disabled Persons in 2019. As in the past, there are income eligibility requirements for these additional Grants, and an application must be submitted to the Township. Grant Applications are available in the Township Building or by calling (215) 633-3620.

We enjoy a great quality of life here in Bensalem, and I am proud that during my time as your Mayor, Bensalem has been recognized nationally and locally as "One of the 50 Best Places to Live in America", "One of the 100 Best Communities for Young People", and "A Model for America". This recognition is the direct result of the efforts of countless individuals and groups who every day devote their talents, time and energy to making and keeping Bensalem the place that nearly 65,000 residents have proudly chosen to make their home, raise their families, and enjoy their retirement years.

As always, please know that I consider it a privilege and an honor to serve as the Mayor of Bensalem Township, and that I will continue to work together every day to ensure that our community remains a place where we can all feel safe and be proud to call home.

If you have any questions regarding the 2019 Homeowners Assistance Grant, please call our Finance Department at (215) 633-3620, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sincerely,



Mayor Joseph DiGirolamo